



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1996

No. 33

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, we thank You for all of our faculties. But today, we praise You especially for the gift of hearing. Help us never to take for granted the amazing process by which sounds are registered on our eardrums, and carried through the audio nerve to our cerebral cortex to be translated into thoughts of recognition, comprehension, and response. Through this wondrous gift we can hear the spring songs of robins returned, majestic music of a sonata, loved one's words of love and hope, and the truths of Your own Word in the Bible as they are read or proclaimed from across the reaches of time. But most importantly, You have given us listening hearts to hear what You have to say to us through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Today, we dedicate our physical and spiritual hearing systems to listen more attentively to You and to each other. Forgive us when we are so occupied with what we want to say that we do not listen. Often we do not hear each other because we have prejudged what he or she will say. And there are times when we are so intent on doing our own will without consulting You and listening to Your whisper in our souls. We say with Samuel, "Speak Lord, Your servant is listening." In the name of Him who taught us both to listen and to pray. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, except for the following: Senator FEINSTEIN of California for 15 minutes.

At the hour of 10 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the continuing resolution and the pending amendment offered by Senator DASCHLE. Under the previous order, at 2:15 p.m. today, there will be two consecutive rollall votes. The first will be on invoking cloture on the D.C. appropriations conference report, to be followed by a vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Whitewater extension resolution. Following those votes, the Senate will resume consideration of the continuing resolution. Therefore, additional votes are expected throughout the day. Also, the Senate will recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

It is still hoped we can reach agreement for consideration of the small regulatory relief bill during the session today. We will make an effort to proceed on that legislation. We hope we can consider it before the week is out. It has broad bipartisan support. I believe it was reported unanimously from the Small Business Committee. I have had indications from Senators on both sides of the aisle that they would like to see this legislation moved, although there is some resistance to it, still holding out hope we can move on the broader regulatory reform. That would be ideal. But I still do not see much real hope that can be accomplished, so I would not want us to further hold up good legislation on which we do have agreement. So we will be seeking to move that legislation before the week is out.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be heard as in morning business for the next 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I was shocked last week to read a headline in one of the local publications that the President was threatening to shut down the Government again. That was the headline: "Clinton Threatens Government Shutdown."

It shocked me because I knew that, at that very time, the Senate Appropriations Committee was working on this omnibus appropriations bill, and it was reported out of committee by a broad bipartisan vote with only two Senators voting against the action by the Appropriations Committee.

This legislation does include funds for the rest of the year for the five appropriations bills that have not yet been signed into law, two of which have not yet passed the Senate. Those two are the Labor-HHS-Education bill and the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriations bill, which is being held up because some Members do not want poor students in the District of Columbia to have access to vouchers. The omnibus bill also includes three other appropriations bills that have been vetoed by the President.

So there are five of them. Obviously, everybody from the District of Columbia to the Interior Department would like to get this process completed.

In the Appropriations Committee, they also included emergency funds for the disasters that we have had in the past few months across this country, and they included funds for the United States peacekeeping effort in Bosnia. All in all, the bill goes more than halfway to meet the requests by the President for additional funds. Keep in mind, the President continues to ask for more money. That is what is at

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S1789